

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is being submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on October 17, 2005. At that time, claims 1-40 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claim 39 and indicated that claims 5, 6, 8, 14-19, 24, 26-38, 30 and 33-35 contained allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9-13, 20-23, 25, 29, 31-32 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Likewise claims 36, 37, and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

By this paper, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 40 to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in original claim 5. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claims 1 and 40, as well as dependent claims 2-4 and 6-19 which depend from claim 1, are in a condition for immediate allowance. Similarly, independent claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in original claim 30. Accordingly, Applicant believes that claim 20, as well as dependent claims 21-29, 31-34, and 36-38 which depend from claim 20, are in a condition for immediate allowance.¹

Thus, as a result of this amendment, all of the claims pending in the present application are patentable. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

¹ In addition, claim 35 was substantially identical to claim 30, and as such, this claim has been canceled by this amendment. Similarly, claim 6 has been amended to ensure that it properly depends from a pending claim.

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Respectfully submitted,



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